(b) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission proposes to identify colleges across the country with potential for excellence in teaching; for awarding grant upto Rs. 1 crore;

(c) if so, what are the criteria for identifying such colleges; and

(d) whether colleges, including professional colleges, in the private sector would be covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) A news item captioned "UGC to help colleges with potential" regarding the UGC Scheme for identifying colleges with Potential for Excellence in teaching was published in the Hindustan Times dated 30.1.2003. Improvement of quality and excellence in the institutions of higher education is one of the thrust directions that the UGC has set during the Tenth plan period Under this programme, the UGC proposes to select and support 100 Colleges throughout the country, which have "Potential for Excellence" so as to allow them to improve their academic infrastructure leading to achievement of excellence in teaching activities and initiate research culture.

These Colleges would be given "Joint Degree Conferring Status" with their names on the degree certificate along with the name of the University. This would enhance their credibility.

The UGC is in the process of constituting an Expert Committee, which would suggest criteria and modalities for the selection of Colleges with "Potential for Excellence". The Committee would also suggest the level of financial inputs to be provided to these Colleges under the scheme.

Professional Colleges in the Private Sector would not be covered under the scheme.

Syllabi in Madarsa

392. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madarsa system of education mainly focuses study of the Quran, the Hadis and Fiquah;

(b) if so, what steps are taken to incorporate modern subjects in syllabi of Madarsa system of education at all levels throughout the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to Dr. Salamullah of Jamia Millia Islamia, in Madarsa education, modernity is a far cry; and

(d) if so, looking to such observations what does the Ministry propose to bring about a total change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Madrasas are traditional Islamic institutions that provide religious teaching. They also teach Arabic and Persian languages.

Under the Central Plan Scheme for the Modernisation of Madarsa Education, the Government provides grants to State Governments for subsequent releases to Madarsas for the following components: (i) the salaries of two teachers per Madarsa @ Rs. 3,000/- per teacher to teach modern subjects like Maths, Science, Social Science, History, etc. (ii) additional grants of Rs. 7,000/- per Madarsa for book banks and libraries. No grant is given for any religious edcation.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware of any such reference.

Committee to review History and Social Science books

393. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian History Congress has constituted a Committee to review the new History and Social Science textbooks published by NCERT;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the errors in the Social Science and History textbooks have been rectified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?